

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06404 181030Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----015229 181033Z /16

O 180933Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3176  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6404

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, PBOR, LE, IS, XF  
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

REF: STATE 123904

SECRET

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1. WHILE I WAS SEEING BEGIN LATE IN AFTERNOON ON  
MAY 17 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY  
OUT INSTRUCTION IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL. I REMINDED  
HIM OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON  
ABOUT THE SETTING OF AN EARLY "CONCRETE" DATE FOR FINAL  
WITHDRAWAL. I REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD TOLD THE  
SECRETARY THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH DEFENSE MINISTER

WEIZMAN UPON HIS RETURN WITH REGARD TO DOING SO. I SAID THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ASKED ME TO FIND OUT WHEN WE MIGHT EXPECT TO HAVE SUCH A DATE ESTABLISHED.

2. BEGIN SAID HE WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY, THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH WEIZMAN ON HIS RETURN AND THERE HAD BEEN FURTHER DISCUSSION IN THE CABINET. HE SAID THAT THE NEWS OF CONTINUED PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION INTO THE UNIFIL AREA WAS VERY TROUBLING, AND THAT HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, "HOW CAN THIS PROBLEM BE SOLVED?" HE THEN QUICKLY SAID, HOWEVER, "BUT OF COURSE WE WILL WITHDRAW IN ANY CASE, AND I SUPPOSED IT WILL NOT BE LONG."

3. BEGIN THEN ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD SPEAK TO WEIZMAN AGAIN AND TRY TO SEE IF A DATE COULD NOT BE SET IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (COMMENT: HIS POINT WAS, I BELIEVE, THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SET A CONCRETE DATE, NOT THAT THE DATE ITSELF WOULD NECESSARILY BE VERY SOON.)

4. TO REINFORCE HIS RESOLVE, I MADE A NUMBER OF THE POINTS IN REFTEL, STRESSING PARTICULARLY THE FACT THAT UNIFIL WOULD SOON BE FULLY DEPLOYED AND THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES WERE BUILDING UP INEVITABLY WHICH ONLY A CONCRETE WITHDRAWAL DATE COULD  
SECRET

SECRET

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HELP TO DEFUSE. BEGIN DID NOT DISAGREE, BUT I DID NOT HAVE THE FEELING THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF HIS ATTENTION OR ENERGY IS LIKELY TO BE APPLIED TO THIS QUESTION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE AFTERMATH OF THE ARMS SALE DECISION IN WASHINGTON AND THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS, OR LACK OF NEGOTIATIONS, WITH EGYPT ARE CLEARLY DOMINATING HIS THINKING AT THIS MOMENT.  
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PORG, PBOR, MPOL, PDEV, LE, IS, XF, UNSC, UNIFIL  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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